



***Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona***

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

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RESIDENT ALIEN FOUND GUILTY OF CONSPIRACY TO HARBOR AND TRANSPORT ILLEGAL ALIENS WITH GOLDEN STATE BUS COMPANY

TUCSON, Ariz. - The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced that on January 27, 2005, Resident Alien Juan Garcia-Jaramillo, aka Juan Garcia, age 56, of Tucson, Ariz. and Los Angeles, Calif., was found guilty by a federal jury in Tucson of one count of Conspiracy to Transport, Harbor, and Bring In Illegal Aliens for the Purpose of Commercial Advantage and Private Financial Gain; three counts of Transportation of Illegal Aliens for the Purpose of Commercial Advantage and Private Financial Gain; three counts of Harboring Illegal Aliens for the Purpose of Commercial Advantage and Private Financial Gain; and two counts of Bringing In Illegal Aliens for the Purpose of Commercial Advantage and Private Financial Gain.

The evidence at trial showed that from approximately July 15, 1996 through December 11, 2001, Garcia-Jaramillo conspired with others, including Gonzalez, Inc. doing business as Golden State Transportation, to bring in, transport, and harbor illegal aliens for the purpose of commercial advantage and private financial gain. Substantive counts against Garcia-Jaramillo involved incidents on November 9, 1999, March 2, 2000 and May 2, 2001. On November 9, 1999, Garcia-Jaramillo, and others were observed, in Naco, Ariz., loading two vehicles with approximately 26 illegal aliens. On March 2, 2000, Garcia-Jaramillo was overheard by an undercover agent ordering pre-paid bus tickets for approximately 19 illegal aliens to take a Golden State bus from Tucson to Los Angeles via Phoenix and Las Vegas,

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and was observed by the same undercover agent overseeing the loading of illegal aliens onto a Golden State bus that traveled from Tucson to Phoenix. On May 2, 2001, Garcia-Jaramillo was observed by another agent on a surveillance camera, overseeing the loading of approximately 14 illegal aliens into a van. The illegal aliens had been harbored at the Knights Inn Motel in Tucson and were subsequently transported to a "drop house" in Phoenix where they, along with approximately 34 other illegal aliens, were apprehended by Border Patrol.

Garcia-Jaramillo, had been charged with violating Title 8, U.S. Code, Sections 1324(a)(1)(A)(ii); 1324(a)(1)(A)(iii); 1324(a)(1)(B)(ii); 1324(a)(1)(A)(v)(I); and 1324(a)(1)(B)(i); and Title 8, U.S. Code, Section 2. The case was tried before U.S. District Court Judge Raner C. Collins in an eleven day trial that began on January 11, 2005.

A conviction for each offense carries a maximum penalty of ten years in prison, a \$250,000 fine or both. Sentencing is set before Judge Raner C. Collins on April 7, 2005.

The investigation leading to the guilty verdicts was conducted by U.S. Customs and Border Protection and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement with assistance from the FBI, the Cochise County Sheriff's Department, the Tucson Airport Authority Police Department, and the South Tucson Police Department.

The prosecution was handled by Wallace H. Kleindienst and Melinda K. Mendes, Assistant U.S. Attorneys, District of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz.

CASE NUMBER: CR-01-1696-TUC-RCC
RELEASE NUMBER: 2005-014

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